

# Rhodora

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## THE NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB

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### THE VERMONT BOTANICAL CLUB.

L. R. JONES.

THE Vermont Botanical Club held its fourth annual winter meeting during the last week of January, and all who have attended this as well as the field meetings of last July, now realize that the Vermont Club is assured a long, useful and energetic life.

On July 4, 1895, a half-dozen Vermont botanists met by appointment at a lumber camp near the spruce-covered summit of Stratton Mountain, with two objects in mind. Of these the first was to explore the Torrey meadows, a large tract of natural meadow land which lies at an elevation of some 2,000 feet, and is especially rich in rare sedges; the second was to form an association which "might promote friendly intercourse among the students of botany in Vermont" and "secure a more thorough knowledge of the flora of the state." In both of these objects their success was beyond their hopes.

The club there formed now has 110 active members. The organization is of the simplest possible kind. Each year two meetings are held, a field meeting of two or three days in July and a winter meeting of two days in January or February. The officers of the club are a president, vice-president, and secretary. There are no fees and no treasurer. The president since the organization of the club has been President Brainerd of Middlebury College, and Cyrus G. Pringle has been the vice-president since the second meeting. The officers are authorized to "prepare the program, including papers and discussions for the winter meeting, and to arrange the time and place of the summer field excursion."

The plan in these summer trips has been to combine a pleasant outing with profitable botanical explorations, a thing easily accomplished in Vermont. Two of the last three of these excursions have been to Mount Mansfield and Smuggler's Notch, the third to Snake



Mountain. The probable choice for next July lies between Groton Pond, Lake Willoughby and one of the islands in Lake Champlain.

The winter meetings have all been held at the University of Vermont. The interest and attendance at these winter meetings has been surprisingly large. As is natural from the character and purpose of the organization, questions of systematic botany and plant distribution occupy the chief places on the winter programs. The papers are by no means confined to these subjects, however.

The last hour of the closing session was occupied by the annual roll-call; at this time each member is invited to respond with some crisp contribution, such as a report of some field observation, exhibition of a specimen, proposal of a problem for the club, etc. Some of these responses were among the most valuable and interesting features of the program.

Every member presenting a formal paper before the club, is expected to deposit, with the secretary, a written copy or abstract of such paper. In this way a rapid accumulation is taking place of contributions of much permanent value to students of botany in Vermont.

The club has had in mind from the beginning, the publication of catalogues showing the occurrence and distribution of Vermont plants. Dr. Grout's list of Vermont Mosses; Mr. Howe's of Vermont Hepaticae, and Mr. Orton's of the Parasitic Fungi, have already been printed. Dr. Burt has well in hand the study of the fleshy fungi. A committee of the club has been working upon a revision of the lists of the ferns and flowering plants of the state, and it is probable that this will soon be ready for publication, for which our thanks will be especially due to the skill and industry of our president.

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT.

## A NEW MOSS FROM MT. DESERT ISLAND.

GEORGE G. KENNEDY.

(Plate 5.)

**Pottia Randii**, NOV. SPEC. Autoica: flores masculi gemmiformes; copiose paraphysati. Folia octofaria, integra, inferiora dissita erecta, superiora conferta obovato- et elongato-oblonga; costa excedente cus-